

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 EB-07 IO-10 /081 W

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R 081050Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 459

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG/GDR RELATIONS

REF: A. BONN 2017; B. USBERLIN 2322, DEC 20, 1974

1. AT DINNER FEB 6 SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE MENTIONED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT GAUS'S CONTACTS WITH EAST GERMANS WERE GOING ON UNINTERRUPTED DESPITE PRESS REPORTS TO CONTRARY. STOBBE'S REMARKS WERE IN LINE WITH CONCLUSIONS OF EMB'S CONTACTS DESCRIBED REF A. STOBBE BELIEVED THAT GDR, LIKE FRG, FACED HARD DECISIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT AGREED PROJECTS AND THE FINANCIAL PLANNERS THERE, AS IN BONN. MUST MOVE SLOWLY.

2. STOBBE SAID GDR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE APPARENT IN CANCELLATION OF LONG-DISCUSSED PROJECT FOR FRG TO BUILD OIL REFINERY AT SCHWEDT TO REFIN
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SOVIET OIL WHICH WOULD THEN BE PIPED TO FRG. IN

EXPLAINING CANCELLATION, GDR INTER-ZONAL TRADE NEGOTIATOR BEHRENDT HAD TOLD FRG'S KLEINDIEST THAT SOVIETS HAD INDICATED THEY WERE NO LONGER PREPARED TO SUPPLY OIL FOR PROJECT. WE ALSO HAVE REPORT THAT GDR IS SHELIVING TEXACO PROJECT TO BUILD OIL REFINERY ON BALTIC COAST. STOBBE BELIEVED THAT RECENT TRIP OF GDR PRIME MINISTER SINDERMANN TO NEAR EAST WAS FOR PURPOSE OF OBTAINING PETROLEUM COMMITMENTS TO MAKE UP FOR SOVIET SHORTFALLS.

3. ON WEST BERLIN'S ELECTRICAL-ENERGY NEEDS, STOBBE REPEATED THAT WEST BERLIN'S REQUIREMENTS WERE ALREADY MET INTO EARLY 1980S AND COULD BE SATISFIED EVEN LONGER IF SOME NEW FACILITIES WERE CONSTRUCTED IN THE CITY. HE BELIEVED SOVIETS WERE IN PROCESS OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH POLES AND GDR OVER PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION BY FRG OF NUCLEAR-POWER PLANT AT KALININGRAD. DESPITE ABOVE, FRG WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO GDR'S OFFER OF 300 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTICITY STARTING IN 1976.

4. STOBBE SAID FRG PLANNERS WERE FULLY AWARE FRG WOULD HAVE TO PICK UP LION'S SHARE OF COSTS OF TRANSIT-ROUTE CONSTRUCTION. IF PROPOSAL FOR FRG TO PAY PROPORTION OF AUTOBAHN CONSTRUCTION CORRESPONDING TO FRG'S SHARE OF USE OF COMPLETED OR IMPROVED ROAD WERE ACCEPTED (REF B), FRG WOULD PAY LARGEST SHARE OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION COSTS. TROUBLE WAS THAT GDR WOULD NOT ACCEPT APPLICATION OF SAME PRINCIPLE TO RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION WHERE GDR IS MAIN USER.

5. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ CONFIRMED TO LIAISON OFFICERS FEBRUARY

7 THAT GAUS HAD RECENTLY SEEN NIER AND WOULD BE SEEING HIM AGAIN IN NEAR FUTURE. CAUS REQUESTED GDR APPROVAL FOR NEGOTIATION TO TELTOW CANAL OPENING BETWEEN FRG AND GDR RATHER THAN SENAT AND GDR AS PROPOSED IN LATTER'S NOTE OF DECEMBER 9. NIER PROMISED REPLY. HERZ SAID THAT IN MEANTIME, MATTER IS TO BE IGNORED IF RAISED IN SENAT-GDR CHANNELS. HERZ NOTED THAT EAST GERMANS APPEARED VERY INSECURE

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AND UNCERTAIN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MOSCOW AND THEREFORE WERE MARKING TIME ON INNER-GERMAN MATTERS. HE ADDED THAT GDR OBVIOUSLY AWARE THERE WAS NO DECISION YET IN BONN ON FINANCING OF TRANSIT-ROUTE IMPROVEMENTS.GEORG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL00242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-0210
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750259/aaaacbek.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BONN 2017, 75 USBERLIN 2322, 75 DEC 20, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG/GDR RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, GC
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006